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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 5252nd meeting of the Security Council, held on 30 August 2005, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Burundi", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council acknowledged the election of Pierre Nkurunziza as President of the Republic of Burundi, on 19 August 2005. This vote marks the welcome final step of the transitional process in Burundi. The conclusion of this transitional process represents an important milestone for the future of Burundi as well as the Great Lakes region as a whole.

"The Security Council pays tribute to the spirit of peace and dialogue demonstrated by the Burundian people throughout the transitional period, and commends them for their encouraging participation in the electoral process. The Council calls on all parties to respect the will of the Burundian people, the elected Government and the commitments agreed during the transitional process. It encourages the new authorities to continue on the course of stability and national reconciliation and to promote social concord. It reaffirms in this regard that it is essential to bring an end to the climate of impunity.

"The Security Council commends the critical contribution the Regional Initiative for peace in Burundi, the African Union and the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB) made to the peace process. It calls upon all international partners of Burundi, including the States of the Regional Initiative and the main donors, to remain committed, and encourages them to agree with the Burundian authorities on the most appropriate framework to coordinate their support to reforms currently under way and to the consolidation of peace."

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